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The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Letter dated 3 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you, in my capacity as Chairman of the Islamic Group at the United Nations, and to inform you that the Islamic Group met on Monday, 2 October 2000, at United Nations Headquarters and discussed the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the situation in Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

The Group expressed its serious concern over the matter and adopted a statement, the text of which is enclosed.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 40, 41 and 85, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Hasmy** Agam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations
Chairman of the Islamic Group

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Annex to the letter dated 3 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement adopted by the Islamic Group at the United Nations at its meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 2 October 2000 on the situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the situation in Al-Quds Al-Sharif

The Islamic Group at the United Nations met on Monday, 2 October 2000, to review the urgent and grave situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the situation in Al-Quds Al-Sharif. The Islamic Group expressed deep concern over the aggression by Israel, the occupying Power, against Al-Haram Al-Sharif in the Holy City of Jerusalem, after the provocative visit that took place on 28 September 2000 by the leader of the Israeli Likud party, and the aggression and violence against the Palestinian people that ensued in the following days throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, resulting in over 45 Palestinian deaths and 1,000 injuries.

The Islamic Group condemned the actions of the Israeli security forces against defenceless Palestinian civilians. The excessive use of force and weaponry used by Israel against the Palestinian people has resulted in the grave loss of innocent human lives, countless injuries, and the vast destruction of property. The Islamic Group mourned the loss of life and condemned these actions by the occupying Power and called for their immediate cessation. It strongly felt that Israel, the occupying Power, must be compelled to abide by its duties and obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, which is applicable to all of the territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

The Islamic Group called for full respect for the Holy places of Al-Quds Al-Sharif. It reaffirmed the centrality of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, the first Qiblah and the third holy sanctuary for the Islamic States and the Islamic Ummah, especially the Islamic holy sites, foremost of which is Al-Haram Al-Sharif. It affirmed its devotion to Islamic rights in the Holy City and the need for respect of those rights by all parties. It also reaffirmed the applicability of Security Council resolution 242 (1967) to Occupied East Jerusalem and the urgent need for full Israeli withdrawal from it and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

The Islamic Group also expressed its concern over the status of the Israeli-Palestinian track of the Middle East peace process and the efforts to achieve a final settlement between the two sides. In this regard, it reiterated the need for Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the basis of the process and the agreements reached, including the implementation of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973), on which that process is based. Moreover, it reaffirmed its constant and firm support for the realization of the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish their independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital, including the exercise of their full sovereignty over Al-Haram Al-Sharif.

The Islamic Group supported the Palestinian and Arab request for an immediate meeting of the Security Council to consider the grave situation in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory. It

contended that the crisis situation is one that must be immediately addressed by the international community, in particular the Security Council, in order to ensure the safety and protection of the Palestinian people and to rescue the Middle East peace process and the prospects for peace in the region.